

*"We have needed this for so long. This is key, and yes we want to be the next step down the road and we're not going to get there unless we keep pushing hard...it's too much for our folks, but we have to do it."* - Letty Belin, Special Counsel to the deputy director, U.S. Department of the Interior

*"We are seeing collaboration in all of our agencies but we have a lot to do. We have to find the sweet spot...we have a heavy lift. Science offers the greatest areas where we can focus."* - Felicia Marcus, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board



*The Delta Stewardship Council was created in legislation to achieve the state mandated coequal goals for the Delta. "'Coequal goals' means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."* - (CA Water Code §85054)



## THE DELTA PLAN INTERAGENCY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

*The Council shall establish and oversee a committee of agencies responsible for implementing the Delta Plan. Each agency shall coordinate its actions pursuant to the Delta Plan with the Council and the other relevant agencies.*  
2009 Delta Reform Act, Section 85204

**CONTACT**  
**Amanda Bohl**, Special Assistant for Planning and Science  
(916) 445-5797, [amanda.bohl@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:amanda.bohl@deltacouncil.ca.gov)

BACKGROUND

In 2009, California’s elected leadership approved a package of bills designed to address statewide issues of water supply reliability and a restored Delta ecosystem. Commonly referred to as the “coequal goals”, new policy was set for water management in California. This legislation created the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) and directed the Council to adopt and implement a comprehensive, sustainable management plan to further the coequal goals. That plan was unanimously adopted by the Council in May 2013.

A primary responsibility of the Council is to help coordinate the activities of hundreds of local, State, and federal agencies that have responsibilities directly related to water, ecosystem, and the Delta. Pursuant to Water Code Section 85204, the Council “shall establish and oversee a committee of agencies responsible for implementing the Delta Plan. Each agency shall coordinate its actions pursuant to the Delta Plan with the Council and other relevant agencies.” This includes fostering engagement, cooperation, and coordination with the federal agencies with responsibilities in the Delta and regarding implementation of the Delta Plan. (Water Code Section 85082)

On December 18, 2013, the Council formed the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC), comprised of 17 State and federal agencies (at the November 2018 meeting, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission was added as the 18th agency). These agencies have been determined by the Council as vital to successful implementation based on their Lead and Supporting Agency status within the Delta Plan, responsibility for multiple areas of the Delta Plan, and ability to provide leadership, resources, staff, and funding for collaborative implementation efforts. This includes specific federal agencies with relevant interests in the Delta (and responsibilities under the Delta Plan) whose participation on DPIIC will continue the essential state-federal partnership so critical to lasting success. Each implementing member agency shall be represented by the highest level of authority to formally speak on behalf of the agency at a policy and management level.







|   |  |
|---|--|
|     | <b>DPIIC Chair</b><br><b>Susan Tatayon</b><br>Chair of Delta Stewardship Council                           |
|    | <b>Chuck Bonham</b><br>Director of California<br>Dept. of Fish & Wildlife                                  |
|    | <b>Karen Ross</b><br>Secretary of California<br>Dept. Food &<br>Agriculture                                |
|    | <b>Karla Nemeth</b><br>Director of California<br>Dept. of Water<br>Resources                               |
|    | <b>Jared Blumenfeld</b><br>Secretary of CA<br>Environmental<br>Protection Agency                           |
|   | <b>Wade Crowfoot</b><br>Secretary of CA Natural<br>Resources Agency  |
|  | <b>Bill Edgar</b><br>President of Central<br>Valley Flood Protection<br>Board                              |
|  | <b>Oscar Villegas</b><br>Chair of Delta Protection<br>Commission   |
|  | <b>John Callaway</b><br>Lead Scientist of Delta<br>Science Program   |
|  | <b>Barry Thom</b><br>Administrator of NOAA<br>Fisheries, West Coast  |
|    | <b>Campbell Ingram</b><br>Executive Officer of<br>Sacramento-San Joaquin<br>Delta Conservancy              |
|    | <b>E. Joaquin Esquivel</b><br>Chair of State Water<br>Resources Control Board                              |
|    | <b>Josephine Axt</b><br>Chief of Planning of U.S.<br>Army Corps of Engineers                               |
|    | <b>Vacant</b><br>Deputy Regional Director<br>of U.S. Bureau of<br>Reclamation, Mid-Pacific<br>Region       |
|   | <b>Kiel Weaver</b><br>U.S. Dept. of the Interior,<br>Water & Science                                       |
|  | <b>Tomás Torres</b><br>Director of U.S.<br>Environmental Protection<br>Agency, Pacific Southwest<br>Region |
|  | <b>Paul Souza</b><br>Regional Director of U.S.<br>Fish & Wildlife Service,<br>Pacific-Southwest            |
|  | <b>Mark Sogge</b><br>Director of U.S.<br>Geological Survey, Pacific<br>Region                              |
|  | <b>Larry Goldzband</b><br>Executive Director of SF<br>Bay Conservation &<br>Development Commission         |

## DPIIC MEETING OUTCOMES

### APRIL 2014

- Inaugural meeting
- Prioritized areas for policy discussion:
  - \* Delta levee investments
  - \* Habitat restoration
  - \* Science Action Agenda (SAA) in support of *One Delta, One Science*
  - \* Integrating and leveraging funding

### NOVEMBER 2014

- Accepted the Interim SAA and committed to help distill key priorities and action items

### MAY 2015

- Endorsed the High-Impact Science Actions (HISA) and directed the Delta Agency Science Workgroup (DASW) to initiate HISA

### NOVEMBER 2015

- Continued support for the DASW
- Committed to providing a regular venue for reporting on California's EcoRestore and Yolo Bypass Partnership

### MAY 2016

- Affirmed DASW as the forum for DPIIC agencies to coordinate on science and engage in the development of the SAA
- Expressed and confirmed a commitment to adaptive management
- Endorsed Science Enterprise Workshop concept and coordination

### NOVEMBER 2016

- Supported initial Integrated Modeling efforts
- Adopted the recommendations from the Science Enterprise Workshop as guiding principles for DPIIC member agencies:
  - \* Establish clear leadership and decision making structure
  - \* Discuss importance of clear communication regarding scientific findings
  - \* Heighten integration between the Bay (lower estuary) and Delta (upper estuary)
  - \* Integrate social sciences
  - \* Focus on modeling, forecasting, and climate change impacts on the Delta

- \* Apply competitive science funding model to attract the best and brightest
- \* Expand willingness to do adaptive management
- \* Integrate a Peer-review, or over-the-shoulder review process

### APRIL 2017

- Committed to exploring opportunities for programmatic / regional permitting
- Worked toward understanding lessons learned from drought in response to Executive Order B-40-17
- Endorsed a structured decision-making process for integrated ecosystem modeling
- Committed to coordinating with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) via the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (<http://www.sfestuary.org/ccmp/>).

### NOVEMBER 2017

- Committed to engaging partner agencies in the Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment
- Scheduled a DASW for March, in coordination with the Delta Science Program, to support the Delta Science Plan's update
- Stressed the importance of exploring and implementing the farming and restoration nexus

### APRIL 2018

- Pledged to further engage local interests in the development of the Delta Plan Ecosystem Amendment
- Prioritized continued discussions regarding governance and Delta science funding

### NOVEMBER 2018

- Formed an interagency committee to elevate the need for increased resources for nutria eradication.
- Endorsed the updated Delta Science Plan, in concept.
- Confirmed interest in finding solutions around funding for operations and management, permitting,



*DPIIC facilitates Delta Plan implementation through increased coordination and integration in support of shared national, statewide, and local goals for the Delta. This group of high-level agency leaders meets twice a year, generally in spring and fall. With a commitment to priority-focused discussions, interagency coordination, pursuit of the coequal goals, and maintaining accountability, the DPIIC member agencies strive to work through consensus-based action to support implementation.*



### *To date, DPIIC has accomplished a number of collaborative endeavors:*

- Hosted, with the U.S. Geological Survey, the **Science Enterprise Workshop**, which featured science leaders and science policy experts from the Florida Everglades, Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Coastal Louisiana, Puget Sound, and the California Bay-Delta. The Proceedings Report and the Executive Summary are available on the Council's website: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan-interagency-implementation-committee-6>.
- Established the interagency Delta Agency Science Workgroup (DASW) which provides guidance on key science initiatives.
- Endorsed the **High-Impact Science Actions**, a short list of high-impact, multi-benefit science actions for near-term implementation in 2015-2016 reflecting a cross-agency understanding of priority science needs in the Delta.
- Endorsed the **Science Action Agenda**, a four-year science agenda for the Delta that prioritizes and aligns science actions to inform management decisions, fills gaps in knowledge, promotes collaborative science, builds the science infrastructure, and achieves the objectives of the Delta Science Plan.
- Created a venue for regularly discussing the efforts of **California EcoRestore**.
- Supported the formation of the **Integrated Modeling Steering Committee** and **Structured Decision Making Forum**.
- Championed the pursuit of regional and **multi-agency permitting** in the Delta.
- Endorsed the updated Delta Science Plan, in concept.

### The Science Enterprise Workshop:

Supporting and Implementing Collaborative Science

**November 1-2, 2016**

Davis, CA — ARC Ballroom A



Photo Credit: California Department of Water Resources

A two-day workshop to better understand how collaborative science is being managed, funded, and communicated in several high-profile ecosystems across the country.

Co-hosted by:



COMMITTEE CHARGE

DPIIC serves as a forum to discuss, consider, and orchestrate the timely and orderly implementation of actions consistent with the policies and recommendations outlined in the Delta Plan and, more specifically, with the annual priorities set by the Council. DPIIC will further the achievement of the coequal goals in a manner that protects and enhances the Delta as an evolving place. DPIIC will interact with and report to the Council on implementing agency task priorities, and identifying obstacles to and opportunities for success. The DPIIC Chair shall have discretion to raise any issue related to the Delta Plan for DPIIC discussion and consideration. DPIIC will undertake efforts to maximize government efficiency, provide leadership and accountability, and highlight where agency alignment will have the greatest positive impact.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Priority-Focused Discussions:** DPIIC will identify and focus on high priority areas for policy discussions of specific Delta challenges in water and ecosystem management, agency coordination, and effective multi-plan implementation.
- **Interagency Coordination – Delta Plan/ California Water Action Plan:** DPIIC will coordinate interagency involvement with planning, programs, policy, and regulation development as it relates to implementation of the Delta Plan and Delta-related portions of the California Water Action Plan.
- **Achievement of Coequal Goals:** Shared priorities will guide Council staff, working closely with member agency staff, to make targeted progress toward achieving the coequal goals. Committee members will inform and direct staff and management within their agencies as necessary to facilitate collaboration and integration, and to expedite progress.
- **Accountability:** Accountability may be maintained through progress reports to DPIIC covering varied aspects of multi-plan implementation and agency involvement in the Delta.
- **Consensus-based Action:** DPIIC is not a voting body. Each member will strive to achieve general consensus on DPIIC priority areas where coordination is critical.

OBJECTIVES

- Monitor and assess progress of priority actions and agency activities to implement the Delta Plan.
- Synthesize interagency activities to improve efficiency and effectiveness— assembling work groups as needed to address specific impediments to progress.
- Identify opportunities for integration and leveraging of funding among state and federal agencies.
- Support existing collaborative efforts and interagency agreements that contribute to Delta Plan implementation.
- Assist in the ongoing development and tracking of Delta Plan performance measures.
- Coordinate regulatory actions on significant projects to implement the Delta Plan (as appropriate).
- Identify funding needs and support development of a finance plan to implement the Delta Plan.
- Build effective policy-science interactions between resource decision-makers and scientists.
- Showcase successes where coordination efforts are effective.
- Prioritize transparency and receipt of public stakeholder input.



**VISION:** Committee members and stakeholders rely on DPIIC as a forum integral to the long-term collaborative implementation of the Delta Plan.

*Specifically, DPIIC will strive for:*

**Promoting an understanding of best-available science and its relevance for Delta management decisions.**

Understanding emerging scientific topics and conclusions from research is critical for Delta managers to make informed decisions. DPIIC will regularly feature *One Delta, One Science*

presentations by the Delta Lead Scientist, Delta Independent Science Board members, and other respected experts on best-available science.

**Leveraging agency “know-how” to obtain and allocate funding for critical collaborative science investigations to support Delta research, monitoring, modeling, and data sharing.**

Integration and the leveraging of funding will be a constant focus for the Committee. DPIIC will take a prominent role in developing, financing, and funding strategies for *One Delta, One Science*; based on interagency priorities identified in the Delta Science Plan, 2017-2021 Science Action Agenda, and other efforts.

**Increasing interagency accountability on long-term management goals for the Delta.**

DPIIC will continue to serve as a public forum to discuss progress being made by all agencies, and will feature annual updates on the implementation of the Delta Plan and interagency priority programs such as EcoRestore, Yolo Bypass, Cache Slough Partnership, and others.

DPIIC members will provide feedback on identifying barriers and assisting agency staff in moving forward with implementation of adaptive management principles. As decision-support tools and performance measurements and indicators become more sophisticated, DPIIC meetings will provide a venue to discuss long-term trends and expected outcomes of implementation alternatives.

**Researching relevant policy issues, and providing a common framework for overcoming management barriers.**

DPIIC will bring in outside policy experts to discuss pressing policy and management topics. DPIIC committee members can commission reports from outside experts, request workshops be conducted, or workgroups formed to investigate a particular topic prior to the next meeting.

DPIIC members will work together to promote accomplishments, convey clear messages to the public about progress and challenges, and work with federal and State leaders to build recognition for the importance of the Delta at a national level. Example actions could include: developing annual reports on interagency commitments and accomplishments, a DPIIC subcommittee to reach out to Congress and the California legislature, National Heritage Area designation, a public education campaign, or other communication tools and platforms.